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### I.

#### *Cases of Neuralgia, or painful Affections of Nerves.*

Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal,

By JOHN C. WARREN, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Harvard University.

#### REMARKS.

THE cases I have related are intended to serve only as contributions to the history of this curious affection. The term Neuralgia is of recent invention, and has been usually applied to a disease of the nerves of the face and head. It is not to be found in Cullen's Nosology. Dr. Good has introduced it, and makes it the second Genus in the order Cinetica and class Neurotica. He defines Neuralgia, "a contraction and distortion of a particular muscle, or group of muscles, with partial trepidations and acute lancinating pains in the course of the principal nerves,—paroxysms short, recurring at irregular periods." He has only two species,—1, Faciei; 2, Pedis. "The only species," he remarks, "which has hitherto been fully described, is that which attacks the face." This is the disease known by the name of "Tic dououreux." The second species, "Pedis," is described from a single case known to the author, of "racking pain in the heel," which he considered as residing "in the tibial branch of the ischiatic nerve, and perhaps the peroneal."

The authority of Dr. Good is worthy of the highest respect. We cannot believe, however, that the most powerful and penetrating mind should be able to view with equal accuracy the vast number of diseases comprehended in Nosology. His definition of Neuralgia appears to be essentially wrong, in making the disease consist of muscular contractions. Such contractions are indeed very often observed in that species which had particularly attracted his attention,—neuralgia of the face. Even in this, it is not found in the early stage of the complaint. In neuralgia of the extremities and trunk, muscular contraction is often wanting. If we notice the cases related above, it will appear to have existed in a very small portion of them, and only in those of the most severe kind,—as in the case attended by Dr. Gorham, and that by Dr. Pier-  
son,—while in the greater number, however severe, there were no distinct muscular contractions. If these remarks are well founded, neuralgia should not have been placed in the order Cinetica, that is, of diseases affecting the muscles, but rather in the order *Æsthetica*, diseases affecting the sensations.

The seat of this disorder is the nervous substance, situated in the interior of the nervous fibrils, called Medulla. This substance is affected to a greater or less extent, proportioned, in some mea-

sure, to the duration of the disease. At first the pain is very limited, so that it should seem, if a small portion of the nerve were removed, the disease would be eradicated. Afterwards, a great part, or the whole, of the distal course of the nerve becomes disordered; but rarely does the affection proceed backwards towards the spinal marrow and head. In some instances, indeed, branches from the same stock fall into the disease,—as in the tic douloureux of the sub-orbital branch of the fifth pair, the pain, after some time, is found to exist in the frontal twig of the orbital branch, and in the dental twig of the sub-maxillary branch. That the disease never extends backwards I would by no means assert. I have seen cases of neuralgia of the face which led to the belief that the complaint had crept into the foramina and canals, through which the nerves issue. Generally, however, the disease is confined to the more superficial parts of the disordered nerves.

What is the nature of the change in the nervous medulla we are unable to say. According to our common notions, we should call it chronic inflammation of the nervous matter. There is, however, no trace of inflammation discoverable in the nerves thus affected. A careful examination of portions of neuralgic nerve which I had excised, has not exhibited any appearance differing from that of other nerves. Nor have we any satisfactory evidence that the medullary substance is susceptible of inflammation. Analogy would rather lead us to place the inflammatory action, if such an action there be in these cases, in the membrane lining the fibrils,—a part so minute, that we can scarcely expect to

support the opinion by observation. On the whole, it appears most probable that the disease consists in some peculiar change of the medulla itself, with the nature of which we are wholly unacquainted.

Records of diseases, published in the manner we have done these, are usually attended with the recommendation of some specific remedy; and some physicians seem to think it scarcely worth while to make known the results of their experience, unless they can be accompanied with the suggestion of an article of the *materia medica* calculated to cure them. The object of all medical research is, in fact, the cure of diseases; but this should be founded, if possible, on an exact knowledge of their nature. Few are the diseases that are cured specifically; by much the greater number are to be removed only by the application of remedies on established principles, and by sensible and distinct effects. We should not, therefore, hesitate to make known what has occurred in our observation of diseases, because we cannot at once with the disease exhibit the remedy. In regard to neuralgia, it is obvious that none of the articles hitherto suggested are to be considered as specific, or infallible, or of general application.

*Remarks on some of the principal Remedies employed in this Affection.*

*Of the Operation.*—The division of the nerve by the knife above the diseased part,—that is, between this part and the brain, or spinal marrow,—is an operation which would naturally present itself. The first trials of it encouraged the hope of its affording certain relief. This hope was soon extin-

guished by the return of the disease in a considerable number of instances. On its being ascertained that nerves were capable of reunion like other parts, and of carrying on their functions afterwards, it appeared proper to remove or excise a portion of nerve, instead of merely dividing it. This mode of operating has been attended with many favorable results in the course of my experience. Some cases of facial neuralgia have been cured, and others temporarily relieved, by it. The mode I have adopted is to lay bare the affected nerve as near as practicable to the place where it issues,—to pass a curved knife under the highest part, and having divided it, to raise half an inch of the nerve and to remove this portion. The wound may then be closed by the adhesive inflammation. In the remarkable case of affection of the nerve of the lower jaw, the instant the nerve was touched, the patient expressed the highest gratification at the discovery of the seat of the complaint. This has happened in other cases, and may be considered, when it appears, as a proof that the operation has been directed to the right point. In this part of the body, the operation would, I suspect, be successful generally, if performed within a few weeks of the origin of the disease. Nearly all the instances within my notice have been of long standing; the diseased habit has, of course, been confirmed, and the success of this mode of treatment has, therefore, been various.

The remarks applied to the head would, perhaps, be equally just in relation to the extremities and the trunk; though in the latter situation it would not always be possible to attain the diseased nerve. The operation on the extremities has

not been often performed, and the results have not generally been satisfactory. The want of success has probably arisen, in many instances, from the cause before named,—the very bad condition the patient has reached before any operation has been performed. Let it be done as soon as all other remedies have failed, and it will, perhaps, be done successfully. In the affection of the sciatic nerve, nothing would justify this mode of treatment,—since it would paralyze the limb,—but the prospect of inevitable death. In the disease of the ulnar nerve, below the elbow, and of the peroneal, below the knee, the excision, performed early, would no doubt often give relief. When the disease is of long standing, neither excision nor the amputation of the limb is to be relied on; for the whole course of the nerve becomes diseased. If the complaint has been brought on by accident, the probability of success is increased. The case of Dr. Pierson affords great encouragement to attempt the relief of the patient in the most severe and protracted cases. The recollection of this case suggests the occurrence of a fact which I have repeatedly noticed after these operations. In a number of instances, the paroxysms have not disappeared at once; they have presented themselves, sometimes, with a violence but little diminished for a time, and have afterwards suddenly disappeared; while in others they have diminished very gradually to their final disappearance. This shows the force of organic habit in maintaining the disease. The same is demonstrated by a fact of a different nature. After the paroxysms have been cured, the exposure to cold, or the occurrence of an injury, has

reproduced them in the same, or in neighboring nerves.

*Carbonate of Iron.*—This medicine has been of late years represented to be almost a specific for the cure of neuralgia. In most of the cases related in these papers, it was given for a long or short time, and the result has shown that it has no claim to be considered an infallible remedy. The doses in which I employed it in adults were from twenty grains to two drachms, or one hundred and twenty grains, given three times in twenty-four hours. Many persons were unable to bear a small dose without great disturbance in the stomach and intestines, the medicine being either rejected, or causing oppression, pain, and distressing feelings. Such were the effects on many delicate females. Strong and healthy men have borne the highest dose without difficulty; and in one of the cases related, a lady took the full dose for many successive weeks. The curative effect, on the whole, has been less than was expected. Of the great number of patients in which it was employed, the only confirmed one in which its influence was well marked, was the case of the lady just alluded to. In one or two very recent cases, the pain disappeared on the use of a few doses; and I have, at this time, a patient with neuralgia of the frontal nerve,—that is, of the frontal twig of the orbitar, or first branch of the fifth pair,—in whom this medicine, with the aid of leeches, appeared to make a strong impression on the disease for a time. I must remark, however, that while given alone it had no effect, and that even in combination with the abstraction

of blood the effect seems to be undecided. The patient has had recurrences of the paroxysms, with nearly their original force, and I am led to believe that after allowing a reasonable time for the fluctuations common to this complaint, they will return with their full severity, and eventually yield to nothing but the knife. The species of neuralgia in which it has shown some degree of efficacy, are those of the face and those from injury. In the case where much might have been expected from it,—that of the sciatic nerve,—it has not been successful in a single instance that I have discovered. My experience in the use of this medicine leads me to place little confidence on it in this and other complaints; yet, as it is usually harmless, I am willing to give it a trial, on the faith of others, in these protracted diseases, wherever it causes no inconvenience.

*Sulphate of Iron.*—This valuable and active salt has not been much employed in neuralgic cases. It merits a more extensive use. In a severe case of neuralgia of the uterus, I think the cure to have been effected principally by it. Let it be understood, however, that both leeches and blisters were employed for a part of the period of cure. The sulphate was used most constantly, and for the longest time. In a case of sciatica, where it was employed without any other remedies but rest and a regulated regimen, the patient recovered under its use; but after a considerable interval, relapsed from exposure to fresh exciting causes, and when it was again resorted to, no beneficial effect was perceived. No doubt it is a medicine of great efficacy,

and I can confidently recommend its use wherever iron is required. The best way of giving it is in pills of three grains, three times a day, made up with an equal quantity of Extract of *Juglans cinerea*, or American butternut.

*Belladonna, Conium, Hyoscyamus, Stramonium.*—While these powerful articles are not to be passed without notice, I can add nothing to what has been already published of them. They have been very freely employed in a considerable number of the cases recorded, yet without any other than their usual effects as narcotics. Capt. E. recovered of a very obstinate sciatic neuralgia under the full use of these articles. He had at the same time very deep and extensive caustics along the course of the peroneal nerve, and to the latter, rather than the former, did I attribute his cure.

*Opium.*—Wretched indeed would be the sufferers with this disease, had we not opium to relieve them. This is the only medicine that can be trusted to afford a sure, though perhaps transient, mitigation of pain. Some take it without much inconvenience, while others experience all its bad as well as beneficial effects, and in this case we must lessen these effects as well as we can, since its use cannot be relinquished. The dose must accord with the constitution of the patient, and gradually increase with the length of time it is used. In incipient cases, it sometimes crushes the disease.

*Cinchona and Sulphate of Quinine.*—These articles have not had any effect in diminishing or preventing the paroxysms, so far as I have had experience of them.

*Emetics, Purgatives, Regulation of the digestive Organs.*—A bad condition of the digestive apparatus, coinciding with a local cause, sometimes brings on neuralgia, and often excites it when it has previously existed. While these derangements thus produce and co-exist with neuralgic affection, they are sometimes seen to alternate with them.—Emetics are frequently required in the treatment of these cases, especially when narcotics are employed. Their effect is almost always beneficial. They interrupt the course of the paroxysms for some time.—Purgatives have the same effect in a degree less remarkable. I have, however, known a patient, laboring under a genuine tic douloureux of the sub-orbital nerve,—the most frequent seat of this species,—who, after suffering three or four weeks with pain, not mitigated by any remedies, was cured by a single full dose of calomel, and remains well at this time, after the lapse of a year.—A regulated regimen is necessary in all cases. If the patient is strong and full-blooded, a very strict system of abstinence will be found beneficial. When the subject is of a weak, scrofulous, irritable habit, so severe a system is productive of nothing but mischief.

*General and Local Bloodletting.*—The patients who have come under my care have rarely been in a state for bleeding from the arm, and so far as I have employed it, the advantages have not been remarkable. When the patient is strong and not old, abstraction of blood from the arm would seem to be called for in neuralgia of the trunk of the body.

Leeches and cupping are very

valuable remedies in the different species of this disease. Most cases of neuralgia of the face, of the side, and other parts of the trunk, and of the extremities, seem to obtain temporary relief from them. For the affection of the intercostal and sciatic nerves, cupping appears to be best suited; and for the other species, leeches. The use of a great number of leeches at once is not so beneficial in complaints of the nerves as in those of the bloodvessels. The application of six or eight at one time, repeated two or three times in a week, is usually better than if a greater number were applied; for if the patient gets much exhausted by them, the paroxysms are sure to be more violent.

*Vesication by Cantharides.*—Perhaps of all the remedies for this disease, blistering is the most frequently useful. In very recent attacks, a single blister will sometimes remove the pain without a return. In those of long standing, it often alleviates the patients' sufferings while its irritation lasts. It is better to apply fresh blisters from time to time, than to keep open old ones, as is done in diseased joints. Sometimes it happens that the pain from a blister is greater in this than in other cases, yet in such instances it seems to be more than usually efficacious. When the patient suffers a violent strangury, there is the greater reason to expect relief. I have at this time in treatment, a patient, who, three years since, was cured of a paroxysm in the sciatic nerve by a single blister, and the following year in the same manner. This season she has had a very severe attack of some weeks' duration,

resisting a great variety of remedies; but under the use of a series of blisters, applied successively to the thigh, knee, and outer ankle, producing most violent strangury, she is at length relieved from the pain, and suffers only from extreme weakness.

*Moxa, Caustic Potass.*—The cases related in these papers may seem to exhibit an unjust neglect of a remedy so powerful as Moxa. This application I have, however, freely employed in cases which I have not here introduced, both of the face and extremities. In a case of affection of the sub-orbital branch it was applied five or six times; and in one of the sciatic nerve much more freely, and in various parts of the limb. In none of the cases in which I used it has it been distinctly beneficial, whether applied so as to excite the skin, or to destroy it and make an eschar. This unfavorable result I attribute not to its inefficiency, but to the fixed nature of the cases in which it was used. In recent ones it would, I think, prove more successful.—Caustic potass, when I have employed it, has been used so as to produce a very large and deep slough. It has been repeatedly beneficial. Capt. E., with a bad sciatica, was cured under its use; and I thought the cure was principally owing to it, as the other remedies produced no distinct effect till after it was used. It was applied at the part recommended by Cottunio for blistering in sciatica,—below and on the outside of the knee, over the peroneal nerve. The slough was three inches long, one and a half wide, and so deep as to remove everything on the outside of the fascia. This large cavity was filled with peas, which

were sometimes anointed with juniper cerate ; and this mode of dressing was continued till the pain disappeared. Such a mode of applying caustic potass requires caution and experience in the use of this article, otherwise parts may be affected which ought to be intact.\*

*Hot Fomentations, Affusion of hot Water, or Douche.*—Hot fomentations are often to be employed in the neuralgia of the extremities. Their effects depending on the heat and moisture, it is not important what kind of fomentations are used, unless in very severe cases, when it may be justifiable to employ the leaves of powerful narcotics, as stramonium and hyoscyamus. I should not advise their application over an extensive surface, as the degree of absorption which may take place is wholly uncertain.

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\* I once saw a caustic so applied as to open one of the synovial sacs communicating with the knee joint ; and although the disease was a bad white swelling, that would of itself have required the amputation of the limb, the effect of this caustic was such as to demand an amputation of the limb to save the patient's life, had there been no white swelling. There is no danger in its use when properly directed.

The safest mode of applying it is to cut a hole in a piece of adhesive plaster, of the size of the eschar to be made. Then to rub the end of a stick of the caustic in the hole, until the skin is cauterized through, which may be effected in about twenty minutes. A more speedy and effectual way is to cut a hole in the adhesive plaster, two-thirds of the size of the eschar, to fill this hole with caustic potass in a powdered state, to the thickness of one-eighth of an inch, and cover the plaster with another, and confine it by a bandage. This may be removed in six hours, and dressed with a poultice, or with simple cerate. This plan should be resorted to only when there is a good thickness of cellular membrane under the skin. The caustic of potass and lime is more safe than the other,\* but it is difficult to prepare, and to preserve in a caustic state.

The fomentation of Conium and that of the white poppy are safe ; and I think I have seen advantages from them, and from the use of hops in the same manner. The hot douche has been very useful in many of these cases. The manner of employing it has been this :—A small hose, eight or ten feet long, is connected with a reservoir of hot water, and at the lower end is placed a stop-cock, with a quarter of an inch bore, which is to be directed to the affected limb. The temperature of the water should be about 110 deg. Fahrenheit. Some patients bear it even hotter than this. The sense of heat and cold varies in different individuals with neuralgia. To some, all liquids appear hot ; to others, cold. They have generally borne the affusion of water at a degree of heat not to be supported by a healthy limb. It should be continued as long as the patient can bear it, and this is about ten minutes in most cases, though in some it cannot be supported longer than five at one time. When practicable, it should be administered twice a day. The application is to be followed by gentle frictions of olive oil, continued a few minutes. The douche thus employed is an admirable remedy, and has proved completely curative in some cases, and alleviated the sufferings in many.

#### *General View of the Treatment of this Disease.*

The proper treatment will vary in some respects according to the nerve affected. The different cases which have been stated will show what treatment appeared to me most proper in each of the species ; but as I do not expect that those into whose hands these

papers may fall will take the trouble to read all I have written, I shall condense the most important parts of the treatment in a few words.

The first point to be settled is the seat of the disease, or the precise nerve affected. This can usually be done by the sensation of the patient, and a proper knowledge of the course of the nerves. Next, we must investigate the condition of the digestive organs, and administer proper remedies, if required; since it has appeared that the disease sometimes depends on, and is often aggravated by, a derangement in that part of the animal economy. Then, leeches are to be applied as nearly as possible to the affected part, and repeated two or three times a week; or if the patient is of a weak constitution, or in an exhausted state from disease, the best application would be blisters, employed in a series, for two or three weeks, and of as large size as the part affected will admit. When the patient is full of blood, venesection is very proper; but this is rarely the case. The disease not yielding to these remedies, I should put the patient on a course of Carbonate or Sulphate of Iron. The former, if the nerves of the head were the seat of the disease, in the dose of from one to two drachms, three times a day; the latter, if the trunk or extremities were affected, to the amount of three grains, four times in twenty-four hours, at the same time using the hot douche. After a proper use of such remedies for the space of six weeks, I should propose to excise a portion of the disordered nerve, whenever its situation rendered the operation practicable. Should this not be

the fact, then may be employed the other remedies mentioned, especially Conium, Stramonium, and Opium internally, and the cautery, actual or potential, externally.

The following remarks on the nature and treatment of this complaint, occur to me as of sufficient importance to be presented in a distinct form.

1. Neuralgia is a disease of the nerves. The muscles are disordered in a secondary way only.

2. This affection is not confined to the head. All the principal nerves of the body are liable to be affected with it, but superficial nerves more than others.

3. After being subdued on the first attack, it is apt to return on the application of exciting causes, and to become one of the most intractable of complaints.

4. There is no remedy which can be considered a specific cure for it. There is no one remedy that is often successful. It is to be combated by various agents judiciously adapted to the peculiarities of the case.

5. Of consequence, the Carbonate of Iron is not entitled to the praises which have been bestowed on it; nor is Hemlock, Stramonium, or Belladonna.

6. A surgical operation for excision of the affected nerve is frequently successful in the early part of the disease, and often fails in a protracted case, even when it gives temporary relief.

7. This operation, when successful, is not always followed by immediate disappearance of the paroxysms.

8. The affusion of hot water is a valuable remedy, when the disease is seated in an extremity.

9. The physical and intellec-

tual constitution of the patient is to be studied carefully at first, and kept in view during the whole course of the disease.

10. The patient is never to be abandoned to his sufferings. When the more approved remedies have been tried, the most extraordinary practice is justifiable.\*

## II.

### *Partial Amputation of the Hand, across the Metacarpal Bones.*

Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal,

By DANIEL GILBERT, M.D.

On the 27th of March, A. F. had the two fore-fingers of the right hand torn off at the knuckle joints in a saw-mill. The skin and muscles over the metacarpal bones were very much lacerated. The consequence was, that the extremities of the bones were left in a projecting state, and it was thought necessary that the hand should be partially amputated. The operation I performed as follows:—

An incision was made on the outer surface of the hand, as far as the ring-finger, and the same on the inner surface; also, an incision at right angles was made on the inner and outer surface of the metacarpal bone next to the fore-finger, and the skin dissected up to make a flap to cover the metacarpal bone of the ring-finger. The skin was also dissected back

on the outer and inner surface of the hand, and the muscles and tendons divided to the bone. A narrow bladed knife was then passed through each of the interosseal spaces,—a retractor with three heads was passed through each of these spaces, and confined by an assistant. With a saw the two bones were cut through. The hemorrhage was slight, and when stopped, the flaps were brought together and secured. The patient has been comfortable since, and the wound is now entirely healed.

Brattleborough, Vt. April 18, 1829.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1829.

#### THE NEW MEDICINES.

#### *Nature, Effects, and Modes of prescribing what are called the New Medicines.*

SEVERAL of our subscribers having from time to time expressed a desire that we should insert in the Journal what we know of these remedies, we shall endeavor, in some degree, to comply with their request. A full account of such medicinal agents would occupy room to little purpose, since, their leading characteristics made known, their combination and practical use must be left to the judgment of each individual. As these new medicines are sometimes expensive, we shall add the price of each, as it may be procured in this city; but it should be remembered that the doses are so minute, that, although *prima facie* extravagant articles, they are not, to the consumer, much more costly than the drugs from which they are extracted.

1. *Morphine*.—This is the peculiar

\* I knew a patient who was ordered, and actually took, seventy emetics of Sub-sulphate of Mercury and Red Oxide of Mercury, on seventy successive days. This is not mentioned as altogether commendable, but as an instance of extraordinary practice; and it is to be added, as more extraordinary than the practice itself, that she did not die of the medicine, but of the disease.

alkali of opium, and is entirely freed from the narcotine, which is the principle in opium and laudanum that is so apt to irritate and disorder the nervous system. Morphine is said to be a direct anodyne, and after its sedative operation is ended, the nervous system remains in an undisturbed and tranquil state. The black drop, and several other preparations of opium, have been said to effect this desirable purpose, but each in its turn has failed. We hope a different fate will attend the substance here treated of.

The *citrate*, the *sulphate*, and the *acetate*, are three salts of morphine which have been used in medicine, but the latter is preferred to either of the others. The syrup of acetate is a favorite remedy among the French. The solution of the acetate is most used in Boston, and indeed generally preferred. The price of Morphiue is thirty-two dollars the ounce. The acetate and sulphate are the same. The solution of acetate, \$2 the ounce.

#### *Modes of prescribing Morphine.*

1. *Pure Morphine.*—Dose, from 1-8 to 1-4 of a grain or more.
2. *Syrup of Acetate of Morphine.*

Take of

Perfectly clarified Syrup, 1 lb. troy.  
Acetate of morphine, 4 grains.  
Make a syrup. Dose, from 2 to 4  
teaspoonfuls.

3. *Syrup of Sulphate of Morphine.*

Take of

Perfectly clarified Syrup, 1 pound.  
Sulphate of Morphine, 4 grains.  
Make a syrup. Dose, from 2 to 4  
teaspoonfuls.

4. *Anodyne Drops.*

Take of

Acetate of Morphine, 16 grains.  
Distilled Water, 1 ounce.  
Acetic Acid, 3 or 4 drops.  
Alcohol, 1 drachm.  
Mix. Dose, from 6 to 24 drops.

#### 5. *Solution of Acetate of Morphine.*

Take of

Acetate of Morphine, 16 grains.  
Distilled Water, 6 drachms.  
Diluted Acetic Acid, 2 drachms.

Make a Solution. Dose, from 6 to  
24 drops.

**II. Narcotine.**—From what we have said of Morphine, our readers can judge of the effect of Narcotine. It promises nothing as a medicine; it is only a chemical curiosity, and sells for the moderate price of \$80 an ounce.

**III. Extract of Opium deprived of Narcotine.**—The action of this substance is decidedly narcotic, and entirely like that of Morphine, only weaker. "I have employed it," says Magendie, "in practice, with advantage, especially on a young Greek physician of the greatest promise, who had not been able to bear well the common aqueous extract of the shops.

"This new preparation of opium, therefore, seems to deserve the attention of physicians." Dose, from half a grain to two grains.

**IV. Extract of Opium deprived of Morphine.**—Four grains of this are not quite equivalent to a grain of morphine. Usual dose, from two to six grains.

#### ASPHYXIA IN INFANTS.

#### *The Recovery of Children born apparently still.*

THE means of bringing into action the inert organs of an infant which exhibits, at birth, no evidence of life, are so familiar to the profession, that we shall not obtrude on our readers even an enumeration of them. We would, however, suggest the importance of greater perseverance than

is customary in the use of these means. An hour appears very long to a physician engaged in fruitless attempts to blow the spark of life to such a blaze that its processes will go on without his aid; yet he ought not to be discouraged at the expiration of this period, unless some other reasons than the failure of his efforts lead him to believe that further exertions will be useless. Instances have come to our knowledge in which infants have been resuscitated after two hours of asphyxia, and a case of such wonderful encouragement is recorded in the *Lancet*, that, had not the gentleman given his address, we should have regarded his history with incredulity. This case occurred to Mr. HENRY POINTER, Eaton, Eng., and the communication, dated January 9, 1829, is in the following terms:—

Mr. Pointer was sent for to a Mrs. Groves, of Staines, Middlesex, arrived at the full period of utero-gestation, whom he delivered of twins, a boy and a girl; the boy, which was the second child, apparently dead. Having used the means to restore the child, without success, Mr. Pointer wrapped it up in a flannel, and laid it on the hearth before the fire. This occurred about eleven o'clock, A. M. The following morning, about the same time, Mr. Pointer called to see the patient; the child was still lying in the situation he left it in, but retained a little warmth. Conceiving, as the child retained some warmth, there must be life, Mr. Pointer desired the nurse to give it some gin; two teaspoonsful were given in its pure state. In a short time after, the child began to show some symptoms of life, and in a quarter of an hour began to cry, to the astonishment of mother and nurse. This boy became afterwards by far the finest child.

## SMALLPOX.

*The best Method of preserving Vaccine Matter.*

We noticed, a few weeks since, that a case of this hideous malady had appeared in Peterborough, N. H., and that numbers had been exposed to the contagion. Messengers were immediately sent to this city for cowpox matter, and all who had been exposed were vaccinated without delay. The effect of this measure has been, that, with the exception of seven persons, who contracted the disease before its character was known, and too early to reap the benefits of vaccination, no other case has broken out,—the further communication of the disease was effectually prevented by the promptitude with which the invaluable prophylactic was administered.

It is worthy of notice, that many lives were probably preserved by means of the Vaccine Association, from which the virus was procured. But for the existence of this institution, which owes its origin to Dr. BIGELOW, matter could hardly have been obtained in sufficient quantity to extend the security to all who had been exposed. The association is simply this:—Twelve medical gentlemen have associated for the purpose of preserving constantly on hand a full supply of *fresh* matter. Each is charged with the renewal of the matter eight times at least in the month assigned him, at the expiration of which he passes his stock to the next in order. A second society is already formed here on the same basis, and we would strongly urge on the faculty in general the adoption of

this feasible and effectual method of securing virus of undoubted purity, and in sufficient abundance.

There are some objections to public vaccine institutions which will occur to every one.\* To the plan here spoken of we can imagine none. Even in the country, if six physicians, practising in the same vicinity, or within ten or fifteen miles of each other, should agree to take each two months in the year to vaccinate the families under his charge, and preserve and renew the virus once or twice a week, the same great end would be most surely and easily effected.

The physicians concerned would find in such a measure a very great convenience,—vaccination would be less likely to be overlooked and forgotten, since there would be a definite time for proposing it, and in cases of emergency, like that which led to these remarks, a full supply of genuine and fresh virus would be speedily accessible.

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#### EXCISION OF THE TONSIL.

##### *Extirpation of an Enlarged Tonsil.*

By WILLIAM AUCHINCLOSS, M.D.,  
Surgeon.

THE subject of this case was 39 years of age; the tonsil occupied the whole of the posterior fauces; it had been eighteen months growing, and the result of the operation confirms the opinion which Dr. A. had formed from others recorded by Dupuytren, Bertrandi, &c., that, in the removal of the tonsil by the knife, hemorrhage is not to be dreaded. The following is his account of the operation:—

"Having previously taken hold of its middle with a pair of double-hooked forceps, by which means it could be pulled a little to the opposite side by my assistant, I introduced the bistoury to its lower part, along my fore-finger, with which I depressed the tongue, and cut from below two-thirds up, on a line with the edge of the anterior pillar of the velum. I then withdrew the knife, and taking hold of the forceps, completed the section from above downwards. Scarcely any bleeding ensued. During that day he was ordered to gargle his throat frequently with a strong solution of alum. On the 10th, the cut surface was freely rubbed over with lunar caustic; and by the seventh day from the operation, the whole had cicatrized. I have seen him three times since. He is perfectly well.

"The part of the tumor removed measured three inches by fully an inch and a half in its lesser diameter. On cutting it open, it presented a variety of structure. It was dense, and firmly organized around its circumference; but towards the centre it was in some parts fibrous, and in others of a spongy appearance, made up of a number of small cysts. In some was contained a fluid somewhat resembling putrid blood, and in others a gelatinous semi-organized matter. A small quantity of fluid, similar to pus in appearance, had escaped during the operation. Its base along the cut surface was soft, and in every other respect seemed free of disease."

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*A Case of Enlarged Scrotum, treated with the Unguentum Iodinae.* By MEDICO CHIRURGUS.—G. S., student of medicine, æt. 21, a free liver, contracted in the month of May, 1828, a severe gonorrhœa, from which time until August very little care was taken to prevent its progress. During the latter stage, he suffered much from haematuria.

One day in August, the patient having drank rather freely of wine, exercised himself at the game of skittles, which produced great swelling of the scrotum. Severe pain ensued, so severe, that from this cause, and also the size of the tumor, (equal to a large fist,) he was confined to bed. Dr. Epps having seen the tumor, ordered a dozen leeches to be applied, and rigid abstinence, with rest. The pain having been subdued, Dr. Epps prescribed the ung. iodinæ, which was applied, and reduced the tumor to the size of a hazel nut. The ointment producing great irritation, was at this stage left off. The effect produced was very striking.

*London Med. and Surg. Journal.*

**Nymphomania.**—Professor D'Outrepont relates a case of nymphomania in *Siebold's Journal fur Geburtshülfe*, which would seem to show that it is not always safe to advise marriage in afflictions of this nature: in the instance in question the disease was much aggravated by sexual connexion and by pregnancy,—the patient dying in a state of fatuity at the age of twenty-seven.

M. Ozaman, a physician at Lyons, has published a case of the same complaint, which he cured by applying to the parts a solution of nitrate of silver, in the proportion of four grains to an ounce. A slight eschar was produced, by which the morbid sensibility was diminished, and the application being repeated twice a day, very speedily cured the disease.

**Discovery of Arsenic in Sulphur.**—By means of caustic ammoniac 0.00061 parts of arsenic have been discovered in sulphur. To make the experiment, a certain quantity of milk of sulphur—of flowers of sulphur—or of common sulphur, should be subjected to the action of alkali; the liquid should be filtered, and treated with an excess of hydrochloric acid. If a yellow precipitate is produced, it is a sign that the sulphur

contains arsenic. If no precipitate be perceptible, the liquid should be allowed to evaporate till a few drops only remain; a little ammoniac is then to be added, afterwards hydrochloric acid, and lastly hydro-sulphuric acid. The arsenic, be it ever so minute in quantity, will make a yellow precipitate.

**The Common Buck-bean, or Marsh Trefoil, as a Substitute for Hops.**—Mr. Yosy communicated to the Medico-Botanical Society, that the above-named plant is used in Germany as a substitute for hops, and contains the bitter principle in greater abundance than the common hop. The leaves should be gathered in the spring, and dried in the shade. It is also employed in brewing porter in Sweden, and it is said to have been introduced there by an English sailor, in 1789. For this communication, the Society presented to Mr. Yosy their silver medal.

**Danger of artificial Inflation of the Lungs.**—The practice of artificial inflation of the lungs, as a means of recovery from drowning, has been objected to before the Académie des Sciences, on the strength of experiments made by M. Leroy d'Etortes, on various animals, especially on sheep, which are stated to prove, that the practice is attended with great danger, and that a strong inflation is capable of producing instant death, although some animals are better able to bear the process than others, a dog, for instance, than a sheep, on account of the stronger texture of the lungs. The experimentalist infers, that the number of persons restored to life from drowning, is less than it would be, but for the use of inflation as a remedy for their recovery.

**Epilepsy of fourteen Years' Duration.**—A woman, aged fifty-five, was admitted in the month of September at La Charité, who had la-

bored under daily attacks of epilepsy since the year 1814. When brought to the hospital she had two fits daily. During several years she had suffered from occasional attacks of hematemesis and uterine hemorrhage. She was in good condition, her strength and digestion unimpaired, and no disease about the uterus to be detected by examination. Copious bloodletting was tried without benefit. Ten days after admission she was taken with the epidemic prevalent in Paris, and the epilepsy disappeared. The symptoms of the epidemic continued twelve days, after which a new series of phenomena presented themselves—namely, hemorrhages from the different mucous membranes. Copious bleeding occurred from the nose, stomach, bronchiæ, vagina, and rectum; but these organs, except merely the discharge, showed no sign of disease. The epidemic complaint diminished during this time, and then disappeared. After this the hemorrhages ceased; and, lastly, the patient quitted the hospital, cured of the epilepsy, and in good health.—*Journ. Hebdom.*

*Preparation of Iodine.* By M. SOUBERAN.—The following is the process recommended by M. Souberan, by which he has obtained as much as the eightieth part of iodine from mother liquors, that would yield none by the ordinary process. The mother liquors from the soda works, are to be diluted with four or five times their weight of water, and solution of sulphate of copper added, until precipitation ceases. The deposit will consist of iodide of copper and sulphate of lime, and is to be separated. Large iron filings, or turnings, are then to be put into the liquid and agitated, until all smell of iodine has disappeared, by which process, the remaining portion of iodine will separate as an iodide of copper, mixed with metallic copper and the iron turnings, but easily separated by washing over. These

two precipitates are then to be acted upon separately, in one of the following ways:—1, the iodide is to be mixed with two or three times its weight of peroxide of manganese, and a sufficient quantity of concentrated sulphuric acid, and then distilled, when all the iodine will rise with some aqueous vapor; or 2, the mixture of iodide and oxide of manganese is to be heated in a retort to a high temperature, when pure iodine will come over; the residue is pulverulent, and can easily be extracted without breaking the vessel.

*Ann. des Mines*, N. S. iii. 102.

*Injurious Colors.*—The Government of Lombardy has issued a law, which, under penalty of confiscation, forbids the use of any venomous substance, such as arsenic, zinc, lead, and other mineral colors, in the printing or dyeing of fabrics which are intended for clothing, or may come in contact with the human body. Many cutaneous affections, it is said, of which the cause has hitherto been unknown, are occasioned by the absorption of deleterious dyeing substances.

*Nouveau Journl de Paris.*

*Iodine for Chilblains.*—The tincture of iodine has been recommended for the cure of chilblains. Two or three applications of it are said to restore the skin to its natural state.

*Suppression of Intemperance.*—At a meeting of the Windham County Medical Society, held in Brooklyn, Conn., April 20th, 1829, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:—

Whereas the deep and increasing interest manifested upon the subject of Temperance at the present day has rendered it proper that some public expression of opinion should be made by those who are the constituted guardians of health,—and whereas peculiar weight always at-

taches to opinions when promulgated in manifest contrariety to private interest:—

Therefore, *Resolved*, That it is eminently the duty of the Medical Faculty to lend their aid both by precept and example in promoting the cause of Temperance.

*Resolved*, That in our opinion, ardent spirits are unnecessary in health, and their frequent use creates a predisposition to both acute and chronic diseases.

*Portrait of Dr. Gorham*.—The Senefelder Lithographic Company are about executing a vignette lithographic portrait of the late Dr. Gorham. It will be copied from a painting now in possession of the family.—Subscription price, one dollar.

CHARLES H. STEDMAN, M.D., of this city, has been appointed Surgeon to the United States Marine Hospital at Chelsea, in place of David Townsend, M.D., deceased.

JOHN HOMANS, M.D. has been regularly admitted a member of the Boston Medical Association.

*Abernethy*.—The following is the last and best that we have heard of the above-named gentleman. We should premise, that the details of it are a little altered, with a view of adapting it to "ears polite"; for, without some process of this kind, it would not have been presentable. A lady went to the Doctor in great distress of mind, and stated to him, that, by a strange accident, she had swallowed a live spider. At first his only reply was, "whew! whew! whew!" a sort of internal whistling sound, intended to be indicative of supreme contempt. But his anxious patient was not so easily repulsed. She became every moment more and more urgent for some means of relief from the dreaded effect of the strange accident she had consulted him about;

when, at last, looking round upon the wall, he put up his hand, and caught a fly. "There, Ma'am," said he, "I've got a remedy for you. Open your mouth; and as soon as I've put this fly into it, shut it close again; and the moment the spider hears the fly buzzing about, up he'll come; and then you can spit them both out together."—*Athenaeum*.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are indebted to some unknown friend for a pamphlet of four and twenty pages, entitled "Both Sides," which is the beginning of a smart and too personal controversy between Dr. B. W. Dudley, the Professor of Surgery in the Transylvania University, and Mr. W. P. Nicholson, a former patient of the Professor. The subject in dispute, so far as the profession is interested, is the use of tight bandaging for fractures, as a substitute for splints, and the effect of this practice in the case of Mr. N. Since it is manifestly unjust to present a view of such a controversy before its conclusion, we shall reserve our notice of this pamphlet for a future number.

Dr. TOWNSEND's Letter, and Dr. J. C. HOWARD's Case of Mammary Abscess and Amenorrhoea, are acknowledged, and will receive early attention.

The Case of Fracture of the Cranium contains nothing new or important, and cannot therefore receive a place in the Journal.

#### WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending April 24, at noon.

Of apoplexy, 1—convulsions, 1—consumption, 3—drowned, 1—infantile, 1—inflammation in the bowels, 1—liver complaint, 1—old age, 2—suicide, 1—unknown, 4. Males, 10—females, 6. Stillborn, 1. Total, 17.

DIED.—In New-York, Frederick Gore King, M.D., youngest son of the late Rufus King, at 28.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

## DENTAL SURGERY.

**T**HIS day received by Benjamin Perkins & Co., No. 135, Washington Street.—A SYSTEM OF DENTAL SURGERY. In three parts.

1. Dental Surgery as a Science.
2. Operative Dental Surgery.
3. Pharmacy connected with Dental Surgery.

By **SAMUEL SHELDON FITCH, M.D.**, Surgeon Dentist. *Denticum curam habeo ut bene digeras et diu vivas; laxatis dentibus laxantur et chylaceos officinæ: hinc mille malorum occasiones.*—Baglivi XIII.

March 17.

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## LONDON STATIONARY, &amp;c.

**J**UST received by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, Crown and Double Crown Tissue Paper, large thin Bath Letter Paper; Billet Paper, Demy and Royal Bristol Board, do. do. London Board, Newman's Carmine, Music Paper.

**A**COPY of Bloomfield's Critical Digest of Sacred Annotation on the Gospels, 3 vols. 8vo. "The most learned Commentary in the English language." For sale by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street.

## CASEY'S APPARATUS FOR THE CURE OF DISTORTED SPINE.

**T**HE Proprietor of the Dormant Balance for the cure of Distorted Spine, gives notice, that he has established an agency in this city, for the convenience of those who may wish to avail themselves of this invention. Physicians having under their care the subjects of this disease, or patients themselves, may have an opportunity of inspecting the apparatus, and examining the testimonials of its efficacy, at Mr. Charles White's, corner of Winter Street. It is recommended, however, that all patients availing themselves of this invention, should do it by the advice, and under the superintendence, of their own physicians, as it is only by medical opinion that the proper subjects of the machine can be deter-

mined, or the other proper measures to be made use of in conjunction with it, can be pointed out. The Proprietor expressly disclaims the idea that a cure is to be effected, in any case, by mechanical means alone. This machine has received the approbation of many of the most eminent medical men in this city and New-York. Upon application to the agent, references will be given, and written testimonials exhibited.

All letters, post-paid, addressed to J. Lincoln, No. 27, Fayette Street, will be attended to.

Boston, Feb. 6, 1829.

## NEW BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

**J**UST published by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street.

The Waning Moon, by the author of the Rising Sun; The White Palfrey, by the author of Thomas Mansfield; The Kind and Happy Child, by the author of the White Palfrey, &c.

## FRENCH WATER COLORS.

**C**OFTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, have for sale, the following Water Colors, of an excellent quality, manufactured by P. C. Lamberthe, (France,) viz: Bistre, Raw Cassel, Burnt Umber, Raw Umber, Egyptian Brown, Vandyke Brown, Brown Pink, Sepia, Violet Lake, Carmined Lake, Sanders Blue, Prussian Blue, Mineral Blue, Indigo, Yellow Ochre, Yellow Mineral, Gamboge, Yellow Orpiment, Yellow Lake, Naples Yellow, Burnt Italian Earth, Burnt Sienna, Raw Sienna, Italian Earth, Crocus Martial, Green Lake, Sanders Green, Sap Green, Mineral Green, Prussian Green, Vermillion, Saturine Red, Indian Red, Red Ochre, Red Orpiment, Flake White.

Also—a great variety of Newman's, Ackerman's, Reeves's and Osborne's Colors, in boxes and separate cakes.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVERSATIONS.

**C**OFTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, have just published, Sunday School Conversations on some of the interesting subjects recorded in the New Testament. By the author of the Factory Girl, The Badge, James Talbot, &c.

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